

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06

TRSE-00 INT-05 FEAE-00 STR-04 OPIC-03 /049 W

----- 032847

R 061200Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4880

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, ETRD, EMIN, EWWT, SF, MZ, US

SUBJ: VISIT OF REPS OF US CHROME ORE IMPORTERS TO SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 192457 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED DELAYS IN MAPUTO ORE LOADING AS REPORTED PARA 1 REFTEL WITH LOCAL SHIPPING COMPANY, RENNIES. RENNIES REP SAID BECAUSE OF CHRONIC BREAKDOWNS AT MATOLA ORE LOADING FACILITY DELAYS OF UP TO 40 DAYS IN LOADING OF CHROME ORE HAVE BEEN NOTED OVER LAST THREE WEEKS. CURRENT DELAY, ONE OF LONGEST IN LAST YEAR, AROSE WHEN ONE OF TWO TIPLERS BROKE DOWN AT SAME TIME THERE WERE BREAKDOWNS IN ORE RECLAIMER AND CONVEYER BELT. DELAYS CURRENTLY BEING REDUCED AS MAPUTO PORT AUTHORITY (CFM) IS MOVING CHROME ORE TO MAIN CARGO WHARF WHERE IT IS BEING LOADED BY BUCKET AND CRANE.

2. AGENT COUNTED SHIPS ON CFM ROSTER FOR AUG 5, AND SAID THERE ARE CURRENTLY 10 SHIPS AWAITING CHROME

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AND 4 AWAITING IRON ORE. LAST SHIP ON LIST, WHICH IS

HANDLED BY RENNIES, JUST ARRIVED, AND IS PROJECTED TO LOAD BY FIRST WEEK SEPTEMBER. ON BASIS THIS, AGENT EXPECTS DIAMOND SHAMROCK ORE TO BE LOADED THIS MONTH, NOT IN MID-SEPTEMBER AS PROJECTED REFTEL. AGENT SAYS DELAYS HAVE NOW BEEN REDUCED TO THIRTY DAYS, AND EXPECTS FURTHER ALBEIT SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT.

3. REASONS FOR DELAYS IN LOADING OF ORE IN MAPUTO ARE SEVERAL. (A) IRON ORE SHIPS ARRIVING MAPUTO RECEIVE PRIORITY. THIS IS BECAUSE ORE LOADING FACILITY WAS FINANCED BY JAPANESE WITH PROVISIO THAT IRON ORE WOULD ALWAYS RECEIVE PRIORITY. (B) LIMITATIONS ON CHANNEL DEPTH MEANS SHIPS CANNOT LOAD FULLY AT ORE FACILITY, BUT MUST BE TOPPED UP FROM LIGHTERS (C) RENNIES AGENT BELIEVES THAT MATOLA ORE LOADING APPLIANCE IS WORKED WITHOUT SUFFICIENT MAINTENANCE. OBTAINING SPARE PARTS AND LACK OF TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS. SOUTH AFRICANS ARE SUPPLYING SPARE PARTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON AD HOC BASIS, BUT OVERALL TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT OF FACILITY WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROBLEM UNLESS SOMEHOW RESOLVED BY CFM. (D) PORT INEFFICIENCY HAS BEEN PROBLEM THROUGHOUT LAST YEAR, AND WILL CONTINUE DURING MEDIUM TERM. SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN EFFICIENCY HAVE BEEN NOTED, HOWEVER, AND MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE LONG TERM OUTLOOK IS OPTIMISTIC.
DE PREE

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